

Southern Cassowary



Description

Southern Cassowaries live in Queensland, Australia and widely dispersed in New Guinea. They prefer rainforests, feeding on fruit but can sometimes be seen in mangroves and even on beaches. They are the second largest bird, completely flightless and uses the distinct “helmet” to brush aside dense tropical vegetation. Adult cassowaries weigh in between 110-120 lbs. and stand up 5 feet and 8 inches tall. They can live up to 40 years and run up 31 miles per hour.

Conservation

Currently they are listed as vulnerable with major declines in population due to road deaths, dogs preying on young birds and some communities in New Guinea hunting them for meat.

Fun Facts

- The male cassowary protects and raises the young from the time of egg laying to around 9 months. The female leaves after laying the egg.
- They make a low booming roar to scare off competitors.
- They have a sharp claw on each foot for defense .

Created by: Zachary Julson

Resource: <http://animalia.bio/southern-cassowary>; photo credit #1 Skyrail Rainforest

Cableway; photo #2 credit Yvonne Cunningham